

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/529,471

Examiner

Tuan D. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

KAWAMOTO, MASANOBU

Art Unit

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 03/28/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 7-16, ¹⁸20-23, 25, and 26 and renumbered 1-23.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 3/28/05, 06/28/2007
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____.


CURTIS KUNTZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

Office Action

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Todd Deveau on 7/18/2007.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 19 page 29 line 1 after "to claim" delete "17" and insert ----8----.

Claim 26 page 30 line 1 after "in claim" delete "24" and insert ----22----.

(End of Examiner's Amendment)

Examiner's Statement of Reason for Allowance

3. Claims 1-5, 7-16, 18-23, 25, and 26 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record teaches various foldable telephones thereon, for example U.S. patent number 6,459,887. However, the prior art of record fails to show claim 1, an electronic device having a body and a lid comprising: a damper mechanism for damping the opening operation of said lid, the damper mechanism being arranged to perform no damping operation during a state in which said lid, when opened, is in a range from a fully closed position to an angle less than or equal to a predetermined angle, the damper mechanism being also arranged to operate damping of the opening operation of said lid during a state in which said lid is opened through an angle in excess of the predetermined angle; wherein said damper mechanism includes an engaging mechanism; and the engaging mechanism includes a shaft that releases interlocking with said lid during a state in which the lid, when opened, is in a range from a fully closed position to an angle less than or equal to a predetermined angle, and interlocks with said lid during a state in which the lid is opened through an angle in excess of the predetermined angle and combined with all the limitations of claim 1; claim 8, an opening/closing mechanism for an electronic device including a damper mechanism for damping the opening

operation of the lid, the damper mechanism being arranged to perform no damping operation during a state in which the lid, when opened, is in a range from a fully closed position to an angle less than or equal to a predetermined angle and to operate damping of the opening operation of the lid during a state in which the lid is opened through an angle in excess of the predetermined angle; wherein said damper mechanism includes an engaging mechanism; and the engaging mechanism includes a shaft that releases interlocking with said lid during a state in which the lid, when opened, is in a range from a fully closed position to an angle less than or equal to a predetermined angle, and interlocks with said lid during a state in which the lid is opened through an angle in excess of the predetermined angle and combined with all the limitations of claim 8; and claim 22, a folding type electronic device wherein there is provided a lid that is swingable with respect to a body, the electronic device characterized by comprising: damper means provided in said shaft portion, said damper means being arranged, after said lock means is released, to perform free running and release damping of a biasing force of said biasing means when said lid is positioned within a predetermined opening angle range, said damper means being also arranged to perform damping of a biasing force of said biasing means when said lid is positioned outside the predetermined opening angle range; said damper means comprising: an engaging portion that is rotated interlocking with swinging of said lid; a

shaft portion that is rotated and interlocked via the engaging portion with the swinging of the lid; and a resistor member connected to the shaft portion and arranged to perform damping of a biasing force of said biasing means in response to the rotation of the shaft portion and combined with all the limitations of claim 22.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan D. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-8163. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curt Kuntz can be reached on (571) 272-7499.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TDN

7/18/07


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